

May 10, 2001

RECOGNIZING THE YMCA COMMUNITY SERVICES NEW MILLENNIUM PROGRAM GRADUATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of citizens in Northern Virginia who will be celebrating their graduation from the YMCA Community Service New Millennium Program on Friday, May 11, 2001. Forty-eight people will be receiving their certificates for completing this challenging program.

The New Millennium Program is a joint, after-school effort run by Arlington Public Schools, Arlington Community Television and YMCA Community Services Department. It is also the only television program exclusively for youth in this area. It has been in existence for two years and has been extremely successful. The goal of the Program is to teach volunteer secondary school students the field of video production. After receiving instruction from the staff of Channel 33, the students pick a subject, and then write, film and edit their work.

The Metropolitan YMCA Community Services Office and its predecessor, The Refugee Services Office, based in Arlington, have been providing multi-cultural programs for our evermore-diverse and dynamic population for over twenty years.

The YMCA Community Services Office has been instrumental in opening doors for people who have come here from all over the world. Among the many services provided are:

English as a Second Language classes for adults during the evening hours.

After-school tutorials for students so that they keep pace with their peers.

Multi-cultural and adaptation workshops for adults and teens and their families to ease "culture shock."

Millennium Youth Program designed to focus on technology, its impact on youth, and approaches for positive influence on the target audience.

Interpreting and translating services.

Job placement and housing referral service.

The above programs, staffed and executed almost entirely by volunteers, are an admirable example of how a few people can make a positive difference in the lives of many.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to the individuals who have completed this program. It is truly an honor to have individuals like this in our community.

I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending this hardworking group.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LANDIS RUTH

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Landis Ruth. Dr. Ruth com-

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plied an exhibit, part of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, which illustrates the "Route 113 Corridor" in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Route 113 winds its way through central Montgomery County and is arguably one of the most historic roads in the county.

Dr. Ruth was born on his family's eight-generation homestead in Lower Salford, Montgomery County. He is a graduate of Eastern College and Harvard University where he earned his Ph.D. in English and American Literature. He later returned to Eastern College as a teacher, and also taught at the University of Hamburg in Germany.

Dr. Ruth has authored numerous books and articles on the Mennonite people and their way of life and produced films about the Mennonites and the Amish. He served as the Associate Minister of the Salford Mennonite congregation for twenty years. Following his retirement from the ministry in 1993, Dr. Ruth has continued to serve on the Board of the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania. He currently is working on a multi-volume narrative interpretation of Mennonite life in the Lower Salford/Franconia area.

Dr. John Landis Ruth's photographic expertise and work have been invaluable in helping to preserve the history of our community. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize him as his works are showcased at the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit and the outstanding contributions he has made.

HONORING JUDGE ELDON B. MAHON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great citizen, Federal Judge Eldon B. Mahon from the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon has dedicated his life to public service and justice. For these reasons, I have introduced legislation that will designate the United States courthouse located at 501 West 10th Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Eldon B. Mahon United States Courthouse."

Judge Mahon was born and raised in the west Texas town of Loraine. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in history and government from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Judge Mahon then attended the University of Texas Law School where he graduated in 1942. He has three children with his wife, Nova Lee: Jana Cobb of Lubbock, Texas; Martha Haag of The Woodlands, Texas; and Brad Mahon of Fort Worth, Texas.

Like so many from America's "greatest generation", he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps to fight overseas during World War II. He left the military after 40 months of dedicated service, including one year in the South Pacific with the 5th Bomber Wing, as a captain.

Judge Mahon carried this same dedication and strength of character into his career as an attorney and judge. From 1945-46, he served as the briefing attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas. From 1948-60, Judge Mahon served as district attorney for the 32nd Judicial

District of Texas, covering Nolan, Mitchell, Scurry, and Borden counties. After his years as district attorney, Judge Mahon became a district judge for the 32nd Judicial District, presiding over that court from 1961-63. He then moved to Fort Worth to take a position as vice president of Texas Electric Service Company. After one year in the corporate world, the law called him back; and he became a partner in the Abilene, Texas, law firm of Mahon, Pope & Gladdon.

Judge Mahon entered public service at the federal level when President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. Judge Mahon is a life long Democrat, but President Richard M. Nixon appointed him to the Federal Court for the Northern District of Texas in 1972. He reached senior status in 1989 and continues to be an active member of the federal bench today at the young age of 83.

During his years on the federal bench, Judge Mahon presided over the racial integration of the Fort Worth School District. Judge Mahon considers this as the greatest accomplishment of his court.

Judge Mahon has tirelessly served every community of which he has been a part. He is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, serving in most lay positions in Westcliff United Methodist Church in Fort Worth. He is a past president of the West Texas Girl Scout Council in Abilene and of the Colorado City, Texas, Lions Club. Judge Mahon is a past member of the Board of Trustees at McMurry University in Abilene and served on the Board of Trustees for Harris Methodist Health System in Fort Worth. Currently, he serves on the Board of Trustees at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth. Judge Mahon has been a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth since 1988.

Judge Mahon has been recognized many times for his immeasurable contributions to the community. In 1989, the Eldon B. Mahon Scholarship Fund was established at his alma mater, McMurry University. Judge Mahon received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1974, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1987 from McMurry University as well. In 1990, Texas Wesleyan University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. July 10, 1997 was declared "Judge Eldon B. Mahon Day" throughout Tarrant County, Texas, to commemorate his 25th anniversary as a federal judge. The Tarrant County Bar Association recently established the "Eldon B. Mahon Lecture Series on Ethics and Professionalism" at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. In 1998, Judge Mahon received the "Samuel Passara Outstanding Jurist Award" from the Texas Bar Foundation. Last year, he was selected as one of 100 lawyers from the state of Texas as a 20th Century "Living Legend" by Texas Lawyer Magazine.

Mr. Speaker, we should honor Judge Mahon by naming the United States Court in Fort Worth, Texas after him. Serving on the federal bench for over 28 years, he has made a profound impact on the legal community and on America.

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COMMENDING M. B. "SONNY"
DONALDSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated educator, a role model for countless students and a good friend. In June, after 14 years as superintendent of schools and 34 years as an educator in the Aldine Independent School District, M.B. "Sonny" Donaldson will retire.

Sonny Donaldson has spent his career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. He has always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that their best interest was his driving force.

Superintendent Donaldson has held the position of Superintendent of Schools since 1986. Prior to his service as superintendent, he held the positions of teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, athletic director, and assistant superintendent, all with Aldine ISD. He is an active member in numerous professional associations and organizations and a committed civic leader dedicated to public service.

Among his numerous honors and awards, Sonny was selected Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996 for Region IV, which includes 57 school districts in the Houston area. He was also one of five finalists for Texas Superintendent of the Year in 1994 and 1996.

The Success of the Aldine ISD does not happen by accident. Sonny Donaldson has created and fostered an environment that demands quality and dedication from both teachers and students.

When Texas A&M University evaluated the test scores of minorities in districts with more than 15,000 students, Aldine ranked first in the state. In addition, researchers at the University of Texas said that Aldine is one of a handful of districts showing impressive successes with students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Because of the emphasis placed on education by the administrators, the teachers, the students and the parents, Aldine ISD has received a "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency for the last four years. Of the district's 48 schools rated by the state, four are exemplary, 28 recognized and 16 acceptable.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Sonny Donaldson, the lives he has touched over his many years in the education field will ensure that his influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes. Sonny, we wish you and your wife Suzanne well.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VILLAGE OF
SAINT PARIZE LE CHÂTEL,
FRANCE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, in cities and towns all across America, Memorial Day will be marked with parades down Main Street, patriotic speeches on the town square and little league games in the park. But for others—families and surviving comrades in arms—it is a day of pilgrimage to cemeteries and memorials, for a moment of remembrance.

For some, this pilgrimage takes them to places far away from that town square; to places made infamous through the fury of war, and where now, peace holds its gentle sway.

One such pilgrimage will take place in the French Village of Saint Parize le Châtel and its neighboring hamlet, Moiry. During World War I, this area was home to one of the largest US Army hospitals, the Camp Mars-sur-Allier. Its 44,000 beds were filled with wounded Americans who went off to fight for peace and liberty in the homeland of Lafayette.

After the Armistice, the villagers of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry built a monument to this hospital on the site of a cemetery where over 2,000 victims of the war are buried. Inscribed on the memorial—AUX AMERICAINS MORTS POUR LA FRANCE LE DROIT ET LA LIBERTE 1916–1918—to the Americans who died for France, Right and Liberty.

On this Memorial Day, a permanent exhibit commemorating the hospital, its staff and the soldiers and civilians who died and recovered there will open. At this ceremony, in an expression of the strong friendship between the United States and France, a new walkway to the memorial will be dedicated.

I know that all my colleagues join with me in an expression of gratitude to the people of Saint Parize le Châtel and Moiry for their desire to ensure an appropriate and lasting memorial to those Americans who gave so unselfishly of themselves in the name of peace and freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO RITA BEE HILL

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rita Bee Hill of Visalia, California, a loving mother and wife, a community leader, and a dear friend of mine who passed away in an automobile accident on May 4, 2001.

Rita was born in Hayward on Aug. 1, 1949. After graduating from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in 1971, Rita moved to Visalia to work for the Tulare County Planning Department. She married Jim Hill in Visalia on Dec. 16, 1972. Throughout her 17-year career with the Planning Department, she served in many local and state leadership roles and was instrumental in the

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establishing and managing the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation.

In 1989, Rita joined my sister-in-law, Diana Dooley, as partners in a local public relations agency. The company, which later became Rita B. & Company, worked on behalf of local community projects and groups, exemplifying Rita's commitment to community.

As a friend recently observed, Rita Bee Hill was her father's daughter. Her father, Carlos Bee, was speaker pro tem of the California Assembly and was a champion for higher education. Like her father, Rita believed people could solve problems by working together. She inspired, cajoled and shamed people into doing the right things and she rolled up her sleeves and worked alongside everyone from whom she requested help.

Rita was active in a number of community organizations, serving as a member or leader of groups including the Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Visalia and County Center Rotary Clubs, Networking for Women, Visalia Planning Commission, City Manager's Advisory Group, California Women for Agriculture, Family Planning Program and the United Way of Tulare County. In 1998, Rita was recognized for her record of service by being bestowed with Visalia's Woman of the Year award in 1998.

In addition to all she did for our community, Rita was extremely dedicated to her family. She is survived by her husband, Jim, a math instructor at Redwood High School; her son, Tony; her granddaughter, Libby; and a large extended family throughout the country. Rita also leaves behind many friends who feel as she treated them as family.

On a personal note, my wife Linda and I had the opportunity to become close friends with Rita and Jim over the years. When I first ran for office at a time when few believed that I would succeed, Rita was one of my strongest and most dedicated supporters. She went on to be one of my most loyal supporters in all my subsequent re-election efforts, and even hosted my campaign office in her company's conference room for many years. This year, I designated her as my delegate to the California Democratic Party convention.

Rita's strong civic spirit, generous heart, and concern for others were obvious to all those she touched. Always living life to the fullest and always advocating the most noble of causes, Rita was a shining example of what it means to be a citizen and friend. Her passing will leave a tremendous void in the life of the Visalia community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Rita Bee Hill and celebrating her legacy of service to her family, her community, and her country.

YMCA TEEN ACTION AGENDA
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, my colleagues, Reps. WAMP, PORTMAN, SERRANO, ETHERIDGE, ISAKSON and GREEN